

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Vietnamese nationalists believe that the French are seeking peace with the Viet Minh (VM) which will be based on either a division of Vietnam or a coalition government. Both plans are completely unacceptable to the nationalists who are planning to continue the fight against the VM alone if the French retreat from North Vietnam.
2. The nationalists also believe that with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, VM efforts will be directed against the middle region or the Delta in coordination with diplomatic moves at the Geneva Conference for the purpose of enhancing the Communist position there.
3. The situation was discussed by Defense Minister Quat and North Vietnam Governor Tri during Quat's visit to Hanoi from 8 to 11 May. Quat and Tri made special reference to various plans for resistance by the Vietnamese nationalists in the event the French did withdraw.
4. Several plans for resistance, all of a similar nature, are being considered and have been accepted by Quat and by the regional government in principle, but details remain to be worked out. These plans envisage:
 - a. The appointment of a director of pacification with the rank of vice-governor who would be directly under Governor Tri. The chain of command would be through the governor directly to the defense minister.
 - b. The replacement of the present provincial government by separate administrations for "zones of resistance" which would be military-political in nature, and more flexible and better adapted to the problems of pacification than the present structure.
 - c. The raising of the regional militia to the status of light battalions.

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d. The supplementing of Vietnamese military units in North Vietnam by Vietnamese troops from the central and southern areas which would be replaced by French troops withdrawn from North Vietnam.²

25X1C 5. If it is impossible for the Vietnamese to prepare to defend the entire Delta in the short time remaining, then they will attempt to defend the zones of Hanoi, Haiphong-Kien An, and Nam Dinh-Bui Chu-Phat Diem.

6.

7.

25X1A Comments.

1. This is one of the details on which agreement has not been reached.
2. This is based on the assumption that the French would be unwilling to remain in North Vietnam.

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